(c) whether these wetlands are eligible for funding by the Centre for conservation and development;

(d) whether there are other similarly placed wetlands in the State which need to be brought under the above Programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, indicating the action plan of the Centre to include them as well, for proper conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, wetlands *viz.* Daha, Kuanria and Kanjia in Orissa have been identified and included under National Wetland Conservation Programme. An amount of Rs. 13.40 lakhs has been released for Kanjia wetland during 2006-07 for activities like fisheries resource development, education & awareness, biological control of weeds, management of free-floating weeds, improvement of inlet and outlet channels, etc. Financial assistance for Daha and Kuanria wetlands will be released, once they are approved by in-house Expert Committee constituted for examining wetlands' management Action Plans.

(d) and (e) Proposals for five wetlands from Orissa were received for inclusion under the National Wetland Conservation Programme for assistance, out of which, only three wetlands, *viz.*, Daha, Kuanria and Kanjia were identified.

Pollution in metro cities

†2796. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The current status of pollution in four metropolitan cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that increase in the pollution level has been registered in the above said metropolitan cities during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the percentage of sulphur dioxide, hydro carbon and carbon monoxide in these metro cities at present; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The status of air pollution in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in terms of National Ambient Air Quality Standards is regularly monitored. The air quality of all four metro cities in terms of specified criteria pollutants namely Sulphur dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen is within the normative limits as per the information available for the last three years i.e. 2004, 2005 and 2006. As for the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), the air quality is within the norms in Chennai, however, in case of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata, it is beyond the prescribed standards.

(d) As per the notified ambient air quality standards, the ambient air quality data is measured in microgram per cubic metre (Annual or Daily Averages) and not in percentage.

(e) Government has taken various steps to reduce pollution which, *inter-alia*, include enforcement of stricter auto exhaust standards for new vehicles at the manufacturing stage, use of improved fuel quality, introduction of Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certification system for in-use vehicles and stringent diesel generator set emission norms.

Cleaning of Ganga

†2797. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has sought details of amount spent on the cleaning of Ganges by the State Governments of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of total amount spent on cleaning of Ganges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.